

than the vaccines now in use has recently been developed by Dr. Albert Paul Krueger, associate professor of bacteriology at the University of California, with the assistance of Mrs. V. O. Nichols, research associate in bacteriology.

Announcement of this new vaccine, or pertussis antigen, as it is called, was made on May 6 before the Pediatrics Research Society in New York, following a preliminary series of tests on 202 cases of whooping-cough in California children. These clinical tests were made by Dr. Minnola Stallings, instructor in pediatrics, Dr. J. M. Frawley, Fresno physician, and Dr. Francis Scott Smyth, professor of pediatrics, all on the staff of the University Hospital. It is stated that the University of California vaccine differs from others in that no heat or chemicals are used in preparing it. It is believed that some of the less desirable reactions of whooping-cough vaccines have been due to heat denatured proteins. To avoid this possibility the new vaccine has been prepared by mechanical means.

CORRESPONDENCE

Subject of Following Letter: Comment on the Splendid Services of Dr. Junius B. Harris, Chairman of the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation.*

Dear Doctor Kelly:—Knowing the modesty of Dr. Junius B. Harris, I imagine that when he presents his report on legislation to the Council of the California Medical Association he will refrain from telling you and the Council members about the real work and worry that he expended in behalf of organized medicine. As one who saw him in action day and night during the legislative session, I am taking the liberty of making a few observations in the hope that you will pass them on to your colleagues.

I fear that the average man, be he engaged in a busy practice in a metropolitan office building or sitting in a small room over the village drug store, has little, if any, conception of the dangers that threaten his professional future at the hands of our lawmakers. Certainly I know that unless he has actually visited Sacramento he cannot conceive of the immense amount of work and responsibility that devolves upon the chairman of your Committee on Legislation and Public Policy.

Through years of close contact with affairs around the Capitol, Doctor Harris has built up a remarkable acquaintance with legislators and department heads. His opinions and suggestions are given respectful hearing. In all committees he was treated with the courtesy and dignity that befits his official position. The only deviation being the attack by Senator Tickle upon the floor of the Senate. He is at all times the doctor and never the politician. Hewing steadfastly to his course and never becoming involved in any side issues.

His personal sacrifice to attend to the duties of his office in the California Medical Association is tremendous. Day after day he devoted long hours to committee meetings or personal work with members of the legislature while patients waited or went elsewhere. It must be rightfully assumed that he lost a vast amount of practice during the legislative session because he could not be in the Capitol and in his office or the hospital at the same time.

It was a rare occasion when he was able to retire before one or two o'clock in the morning. Then up early for the morning committee meetings. The physical strain alone was terrific.

With a well-established practice and an enviable position in his profession, Doctor Harris would be

* This is a communication from Mr. Ben Read, executive secretary of the Public Health League of California, which was read to the California Medical Association Council on May 27, and by it ordered to be printed in the June California and Western Medicine. The report of the chairman of the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation was also ordered to be printed, and will be found on page 474.

perhaps among the last of those affected by any legislative action. Selfishly he need have little concern over what the legislature does, but in the interest of his profession, in the interest of the man "too busy" to give any thought to political or economic subjects, he makes a great sacrifice financially and physically.

The medical profession of California owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Junius B. Harris, and it is in the hope that my feeble words may in some way carry home to your profession a realization of the great service he has performed that I take the liberty of addressing you.

Sincerely yours,

BEN H. READ.

Subject of the Following Letter: Excerpts from a Personal Letter from Dr. Rupert Blue, former Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service, on Subject of Bubonic Plague and Rat-Proofing Measures.

To the Editor:—Your letter of March 15 has been received. It was like a voice from the past, bringing pleasant recollections of our association in the work of absorbing interest and national importance. . . .

I shall be very glad to have you publish the paper on "Plague Control in 1903." . . . It is recalled, however, that the first permanent anti-rat and anti-plague measures were instituted in Chinatown in 1903-1904 and that they were successful beyond our fondest expectations. There was nothing in the literature on the subject and no criterion to guide us, and we were compelled to proceed in the face of organized opposition from the press, the people, and, sad to relate, from some of the leading medical men of San Francisco. It has been aptly said that the advocates of the revolutionary travel a hard road, and it was true with us.

It was a new orientation of an old problem; that is to say, to place the entire blame for the spread and continuance of the plague upon the rodent. Up to that time it was believed that the human factor played the principal or the only rôle in the dissemination and continuance of the disease. We proved, in 1903-1904, that sanitarians could ignore the human factor and depend entirely upon rodent extermination as a reliable measure of control. If this were true, then we had to devise better methods of extermination than the accustomed routine of poisoning and fumigation. The conclusion was soon reached that we had to build them out by the use of impervious material upon foundations, walls, and approaches. In other words, the prevention of harborage and breeding were the objectives we had in mind—that is to say, rat-proofing.

As you may recall, the mode of transmission of plague from rat to man by means of rat fleas was not known until 1906 or 1907, at which time the British Plague Commission published the results of their experimental work in India. Prior to this work, however, we had established the fact in 1904 that plague could be controlled by the application of anti-rat measures in Chinatown. The rat-proofing of buildings as an anti-plague measure was inaugurated at that time and was elaborated upon and proved beyond the peradventure of a doubt during the larger epidemic in 1907-1908.

Yours sincerely,

RUPERT BLUE.

1808 Eye Street, Washington, D. C.

Subject of Following Letter: Treatment of Impetigo

To the Editor:—For eight years now it has been my province to make a yearly routine examination of our high school boys here in Palo Alto, as school physician. In this work I have had opportunity to note the incidence of impetigo among three or four hundred boys annually. The last two years, as physician in charge of the small infirmary attached to the Palo Alto Shelter, for the transient unemployed, my field of observation has been widened. Our records there